

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed June 5, 2003 (hereinafter "instant Office Action"). Original Claims 1-42 are under examination in the present action. All pending Claims stand rejected. Applicants have added new claims 43-58 directed to the embodiment described on pages 31 and 32 of the specification. Applicants attest that said claims do not introduce new matter. Reconsideration of the instant Office Action, entry of new claims 43-58, and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-42, are earnestly requested.

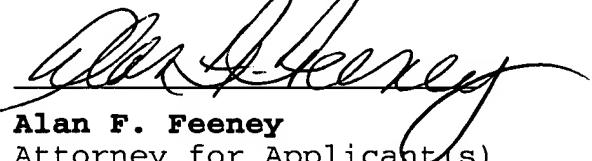
Response to issues presented under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 11-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over international patent application publication number WO 97/39738. Without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's argument and in an effort solely to advance the prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have canceled, without waiver or prejudice, claims 1-42. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in a condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant(s) attorney at (508) 478-0144 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No.
50-0590 referencing attorney docket number 00537-072005.

Respectfully submitted,


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